adulteration and malpractices, the oil marketing companies carry out regular/ surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malparctices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

Action is taken by the oil marketing companies under the dealership agreement depending upon the gravity of the case.

Further to check the adulteration of automobile fuels *viz.* like Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) by adulterants like Naptha, Solvent, Raffinate and Slop, the Government has promulgated the solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobililes) Order, 2000 and the Naptha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Order, 2000 under the provisions of the essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Transfer of petrol pump and gas dealership within the family

110. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the normal period required to transfer petrol pump or gas dealership within the family or otherwise; and

(b) the number of cases pending and since when, company-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E.PONNUSWAMY): (a) According to the Government policy, reconstitution of dealerships/ distributorships is allowed subject to certain conditions. No period is specified for reconstitution. Each case is considered on merit and approved by the competent authority if the prescribed conditions are fulfilled.

(b) The company wise number of pending cases of reconstitution is given below:

Name of the Oil Company	RO dealership	LPG distributorship
IOC	171	31
BPC	6	14
HPC	13	21
IBP	—	—
TOTAL	190	66

Permission for production of 'Gasohal'

†111. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation about granting permission for production of 'Gasohal', which is developed with sugarcane molasses, as an alternative to petrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken on the representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Government propose to take up pilot projects in UP and Maharashtra to ascertain the effects of using ethanol blended autofuel on the environment and to examine operational and financial aspects.

Slipping targets of oil production

112. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has been continuously slipping on its oil production targets;

(b) what have been the targets and actual production in the past five years;

(c) whether the recovery rate at Bombay High is only about 25 per cent when similar oil fields elsewhere achieve 45-50 per cent; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to allow global oil producers to takeover/participate in management?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.